

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

**Section 390
Categorical Exclusion for
Oil and Gas Development**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0153-CX(390)

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-65555

PROJECT NAME: EnCana Oil and Gas 16 APDs on existing well pad P28-496

8608C-28 P28 496
8608D-28 P28 496
8608E-28 P28 496
8608F-28 P28 496
8609A-28 P28 496
8609B-28 P28 496
8609C-28 P28 496
8609D-28 P28 496
8609E-28 P28 496
8609F-28 P28 496
8609G-28 P28 496
8616B-28 P28 496
8616C-28 P28 496
8616D-28 P28 496
8616E-28 P28 496
8616F-28 P28 496

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S, R96W, SESE Section 28

APPLICANT: EnCana Oil and Gas

BACKGROUND: The White River Field Office (WRFO) received Notices of Staking (NOSs) from EnCana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc (EnCana) on 9/3/2010 for well pad P28-496. This was followed by an onsite inspection on 10/13/2010 for the location. Ten Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) were subsequently received on 2/9/2011 for well pad P28-496. On 5/25/2011, the first 10 APDs were approved in [DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA](#), with pad construction beginning on 5/27/2011. On 6/1/2011, the WRFO received 16 additional APDs for the P28-496 well pad. This location is on private surface with federal minerals.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposal includes drilling 16 additional wells on the existing P28 496 well pad (see Figures 1 and 2). No additional acreage is required to expand the existing well pad. The access road and pipeline to the location was approved in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA, thus no additional access road or pipeline is required. The proposed start date to begin drilling the 16 additional wells on the P28-496 location is 11/1/2011.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the additional 16 wells, and if so, under what conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: *“Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed.”*

Documentation

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1) *Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?* Yes, surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action is less than five acres. For the proposal, zero additional disturbance acres are required.

2) *Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?* There is less than 150 acres of surface disturbance on the entire leasehold. It is estimated that there are approximately 118 acres of disturbance on the leasehold based on a review of the approved NEPA documents and projects on lease COC-65555, not taking into consideration interim reclamation. Disturbances were calculated using 150 foot wide pipeline corridors which following construction and successful surface reclamation will have minimal or no acres of disturbance. Access roads were calculated using a 40 foot wide disturbance.

Following successful interim reclamation of access roads, disturbance would typically be 24 feet wide. Well pad disturbances were based on what was approved in the NEPA document for that pad.

3) *Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)* The Proposed Action is within the boundaries of the area included in site specific NEPA document DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA signed on 5/24/2011.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 7/19/2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	8/1/2011
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/3/2011
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	7/26/2011

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The locations of the proposed well pad and wells has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Conner 2010 Compliance Dated 12/7/2010). The inventory did not locate any new cultural resources and due to the expected shallow nature of the soils in the area and the steep topography no subsurface cultural resources are anticipated. There should be no new impacts to cultural resources or loss of archaeological data from the project.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The proposed well pad and wells are located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 4/5 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). If it becomes necessary to cut unto the underlying sedimentary rock formation or the rock of the slopes adjacent to well pad there is a high potential to impact

noteworthy fossil. Any impacts to or loss of in situ fossil resources could represent a cumulative loss of paleontological resources for the region. (MRS 8/1/2011)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no additional wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. All wildlife issues were adequately addressed in the parent document (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA).

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special plant species concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Conner, Carl E.
2010 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for Two proposed Well locations (N22-496 and P28 496) in Garfield County, Colorado for EnCana Oil and Gas (USA). Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (10-11-29: SHPO #GF.LM.NR944)

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION: Applicable mitigation carried forward from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA is attached as Appendix A.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

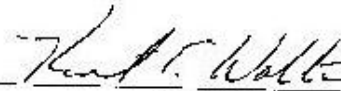
NAME OF PREPARER: Jay Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

09/06/2011

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1 – Map of P28 496 well pad location and access – scale 1:100,000

Figure 2 – Map of P28 496 well pad location and access – scale 1" = 2000'

Appendix A – Applicable Mitigation Brought Forward From DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA

Figure 1 – Map of P28 496 well pad location and access – scale 1:100,000

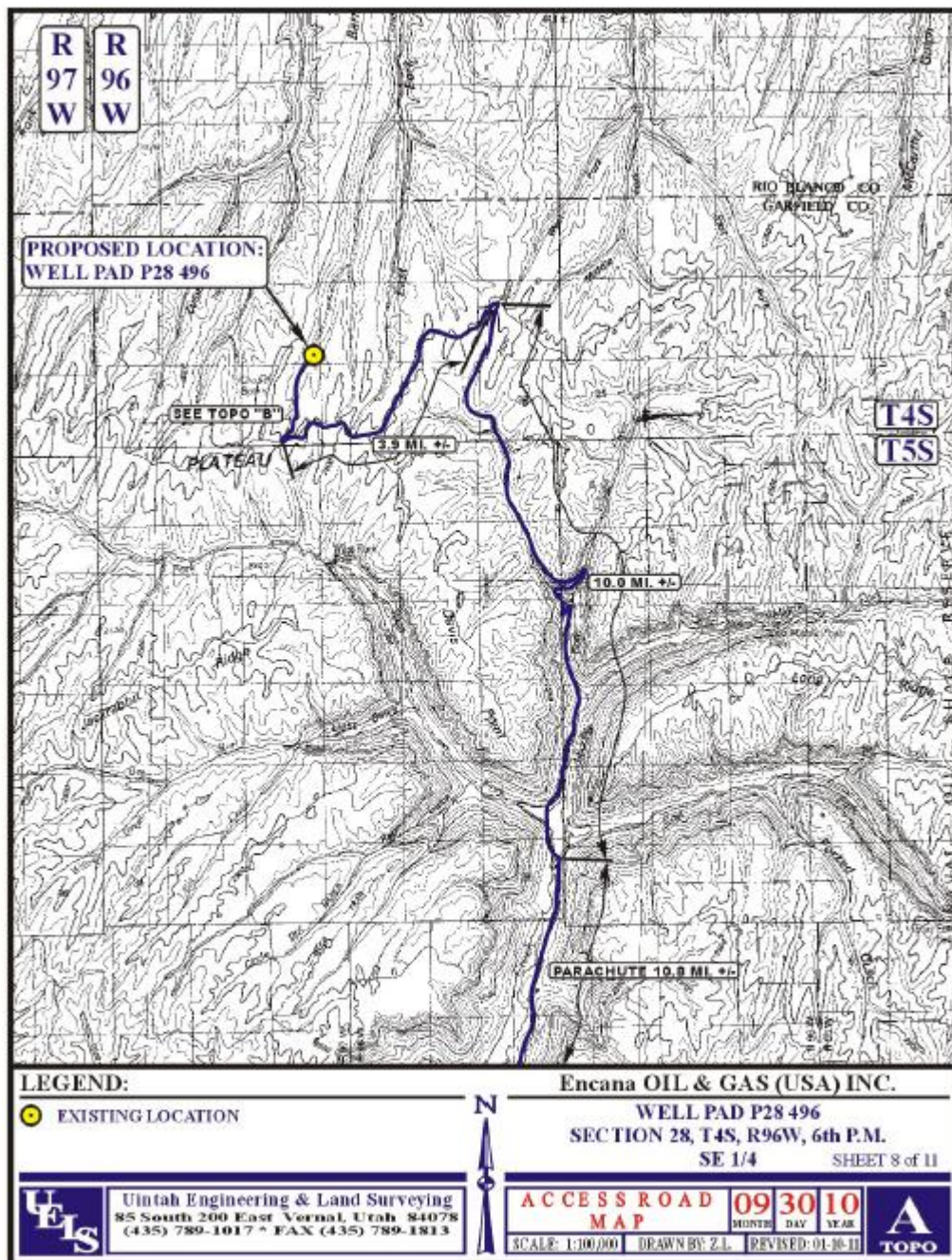
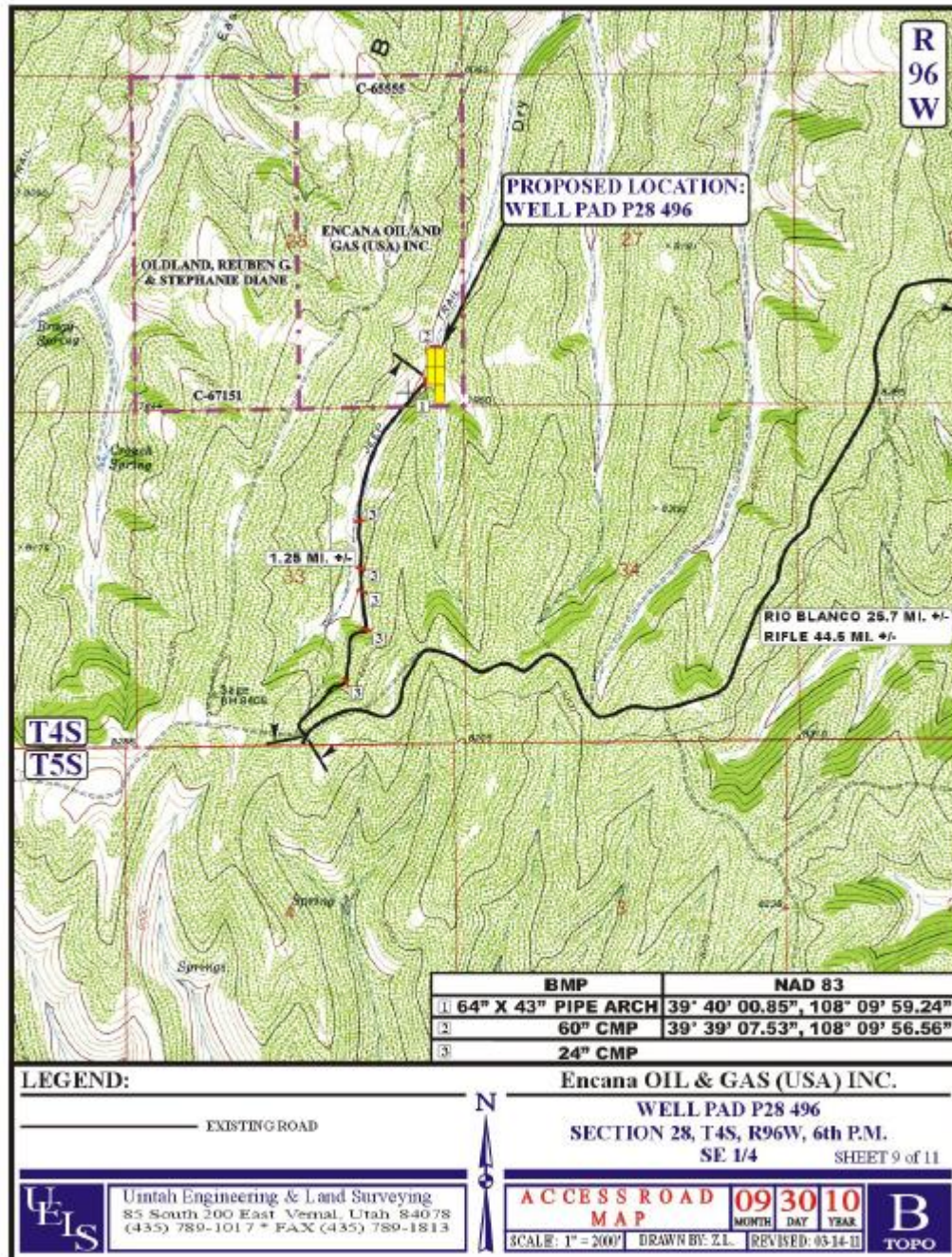


Figure 2 – Map of P28 496 well pad location and access – scale 1" = 2000'



Appendix A – Applicable Mitigation Brought Forward From DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA

Pre-Construction Activities and Notifications

- 1) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to beginning all construction-related activities associated with this project that result in disturbance of surface soils. Construction-related activities may include, but are not limited to, pad and road construction, clearing pipeline corridors, trenching, etc. Notification of all construction-related activities, regardless of size, that result in disturbance of surface soils as a result of this project is required.

Post-Construction Notifications

- 2) In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* with geospatial data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) (e.g., GIS point and polygon features). These data will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features associated with this project and included in the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or Sundry Notice (SN), as appropriate.
 - These data shall be submitted within 60 days of construction completion. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the designated Natural Resource Specialist via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.
 - GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
 - Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office
Attn: Natural Resource Specialist
220 East Market Street
Meeker, Colorado 81641

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

- 3) If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the **Proposed Action changes**, the operator shall submit updated GIS “As-Built” data to designated Natural Resource Specialist within 7 calendar days of the change. This information shall be **submitted via Sundry Notice**.

Pre & Post-Drilling Notifications

- 4) Prior to beginning drilling operations, the operator will submit via Sundry Notice a description of the backflow preventer or other method used to protect water quality at diversion sites in the Piceance Creek watershed and that describes the point(s) of diversion for industrial water rights used for freshwater supply from the Piceance Creek watershed.
- 5) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to well spud (breaking ground for drilling surface casing).
- 6) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to commencing completion operations.

Resource-Specific Mitigation During Construction, Drilling, and Production:

Access and Transportation

- 7) During dry weather conditions and high traffic occurrences, the applicant will utilize a BLM WRFO approved dust suppressant to the road surface to increase visibility. The operator shall employ dust suppression techniques as outlined in the SUP whenever there is a visible dust trail behind vehicles during the construction and drilling phases of the Proposed Action. Any technique other than the use of freshwater as a dust suppressant will require prior written approval from BLM.

Air Quality

- 8) All access roads will be built and maintained according to BLM Manual Section 9113 standards for road shape and drainage features at all times during pad construction, drilling, and production.

Rangeland Management

- 9) Replace the livestock watering facilities at both sites with similar facilities at appropriate locations near the proposed pads to maintain the utility of these areas for livestock grazing and to not concentrate use around remaining water sources (as agreed to at the October 13, 2010 on-site inspection).

Visual Resources

- 10) All above ground features (for example: tanks, valves, pigging stations, and pipe fence barriers) will be painted Covert Green (Standard Environmental Color Chart) within six months of completion.
- 11) All disturbed areas will be contoured to blend with the natural topography. Blending is defined as reducing form, line, shape and color contrast with the disturbing activity.

Water Quality, Surface and Ground

- 12) If surface sources are used for freshwater, water hauling trucks will use backflow preventers to avoid contamination of the Piceance Creek or its tributaries. Trucks used for hauling produced water or waste disposal will not be used for freshwater delivery for this project without prior written approval from BLM.
- 13) To protect surface waters below the project area, keep road inlet and outlet ditches, sediment retention basins, and culverts free of obstructions, particularly before and during spring run-off. Provide adequate spacing to avoid accumulation of water in ditches or road surfaces. Install culverts with adequate armoring of inlet and outlet. Patrol areas susceptible to road or watershed damage during periods of high runoff.
- 14) To protect surface waters downstream, the cuttings disposal sites for each pad should be constructed in such a way to allow for stormwater movement through the floodplain that will not disturb or mobilize the cuttings in the future. This may include, but is not limited to, not disposing of the cuttings in a portion of the drainage or armoring a channel to convey stormwaters around the cuttings disposal sites.

Waste, Hazardous or Solid

- 15) All lessees and/or operators and right-of-way holders shall comply with all federal, state and/or local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
- 16) Where required by law or regulation to develop a plan for the prevention of releases or the recovery of a release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, provide a current copy of said plan to the BLM WRFO.
- 17) When drilling to set the surface casing, drilling fluid will be composed only of fresh water, bentonite, and/or a benign lost circulation material that does not pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment (e.g., cedar bark, shredded cane stalks, mineral fiber and hair, mica flakes, ground and sized limestone or marble, wood, nut hulls, corncobs, or cotton hulls).
- 18) Through all phases of oil and gas exploration, development, and production, all lessees and/or operators and holders of rights-of-way shall employ, maintain, and periodically update to the best available technology(s) aimed at reducing: 1) emissions, 2) fresh water use, and 3) utilization, production, and release of hazardous material.
- 19) All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water, shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110% of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.
- 20) Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.

- 21) As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.
- 22) As a reasonable and prudent lessees/operator and/or right-of-way holder in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the lessee/operator or right-of-way holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.
- 23) With the acceptance of this authorization, the commencement of operations under this authorization, or within thirty calendar days from the issuance of this authorization, whichever occurs first, and during the life of the pipeline, the right-of-way holder and the lessee/operator, and through the right-of-way holder and lessee/operator, its agents, employees, subcontractors, successors and assigns, stipulate and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States Government, its agencies, and employees from all liability associated with the emission or release of substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment.

Cultural Resources

- 24) The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon

verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

- 25) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

Paleontology Resources

- 26) The BLM cannot impose mitigation for paleontology resources on the land owner in this case because the Proposed Action is on privately owned surface but encourages cooperation with paleontologists in the event that fossils are discovered during construction.

Fire Management

- 27) When working on lands administered by the BLM WRFO, notify Craig Interagency Dispatch (970-826-5037) in the event of any fire.
- a. The reporting party will inform the dispatch center of fire location, size, status, smoke color, aspect, fuel type, and provide their contact information.
 - b. The reporting party, or a representative of, should remain nearby, in a safe location, in order to make contact with incoming fire resources to expedite actions taken towards an appropriate management response.
 - c. The applicant and contractors will not engage in any fire suppression activities outside the approved project area. Accidental ignitions caused by welding, cutting, grinding, etc. will be suppressed by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered and if the fire can be safely contained using hand tools and portable hand pumps. If chemical fire extinguishers are used the applicant must notify incoming fire resources on extinguisher type and the location of use.
 - d. Natural ignitions caused by lightning will be managed by Federal fire personnel. If a natural ignition occurs within the approved project area, the fire may be initially contained by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered. The use of heavy equipment for fire suppression is prohibited, unless authorized by the Field Office Manager.

Pre-Reclamation Notification

- 28) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all reclamation activities associated with this project via email or by phone. Reclamation activities may include, but are not limited to, seed bed preparation that requires disturbance of surface soils, seeding, or constructing exclosures (e.g., fences) to exclude livestock from reclaimed areas.

Reclamation and Weed Management

- 29) In addition to the reclamation actions outlined in the Reclamation section above, reclaim pipelines and road shoulders with the Final and Phase II Interim reclamation practices (respectively) outlined in the White River Field Office Surface Reclamation Protocol document (available at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo.html>).

- 30) To facilitate reclamation, both pads (including cut and fill areas) should be fenced to exclude livestock until desirable vegetation is established. On favorable sites such as these, successful re-vegetation should be achievable within three growing seasons. Associated pipelines would also benefit from being fenced but fences would need to accommodate livestock passage through the area by constructing “pass-through” areas at appropriate intervals. Any fences, gates and cattleguards installed will be maintained in functional condition by the operator and will be removed by the operator upon approval by the WRFO BLM.
- 31) All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice. The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name and phone number of the contractor that performed the work, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
- 32) Monitoring for, and control/eradication of noxious and invasive weeds associated with these pads, access roads, and pipelines should occur throughout the life of the projects including through final reclamation and abandonment. Pesticide Application Reports must be submitted to the BLM where weed treatments extend onto BLM lands.

Information Sharing & Reclamation Monitoring

- 33) The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers (brett_smithers@blm.gov). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, Colorado 81641
Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30th of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be

accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

- 34) The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.

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DECISION

PROJECT NAME: EnCana Oil and Gas 16 APDs on existing well pad P28-496

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0153-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0153-CX, authorizing the drilling and operation of 16 new wells on the existing EnCana Oil and Gas P28 496 well pad.

Mitigation Measures: See Appendix A – Applicable Mitigation Brought Forward From DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0006-EA.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 07/19/2011. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 8/5/2011.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act. Drilling additional wells from an existing pad allows for extraction of the mineral resource while minimizing surface disturbance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

09/06/2011